



#22/AmST

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, DC 20231, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

By:

G. J. Smith

Date:

April 7, 2003 5/20/03

PATENT
Box RCE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re: Nanning J. Arfsten, *et al.* : Group Art Unit 1775
Conf. No.: 8672 :
Appln. No. 09/437,948 : Examiner: J. McNeil
Filed: November 10, 1999 :
For: NIOBIUM OXIDE-BASED LAYERS : Attorney Docket
FOR THIN FILM OPTICAL : No. 275-3US
COATINGS AND PROCESSES FOR
PRODUCING THE SAME :

AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Notice of Allowance mailed February 20, 2003 (Paper No. 19). A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) accompanies this amendment.

Please amend the application without prejudice as follows:

In the claims:

Please add new claim 24 as follows:

24. (New) The coating in accordance with claim 12, wherein the niobium oxide is present in the layer in a mole fraction of from about 0.22 to about 0.53, the silicon oxide is present in the layer in a mole fraction of from about 0.29 to about 0.49, and the aluminum oxide is present in the layer in a mole fraction of from about 0.17 to about 0.29, each mole fraction being based on the total moles of niobium oxide, silicon oxide and aluminum oxide in the layer.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 19, 20, and 22-24 are presently pending in the application.
Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 19, 20, 22 and 23 have been allowed.